

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a lyophilized composition comprising:

(a) mixing

(i) polyoxyethylene (POE) and polyoxypropylene (POP) blockcopolymer;  
(ii) a polynucleotide;  
(iii) a cationic surfactant; and  
(iv) a compound selected from the group consisting of monosaccharides, disaccharides, oligosaccharides, sorbitol, hydrophilic polymers, proteins and mixtures thereof;

at a temperature below the cloud point of said block copolymer to form a mixture; and

(b) cold filtering the mixture; and

(c) lyophilizing the mixture.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said block copolymer is of the general formula:  $\text{HO}(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_x(\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O})_y(\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O})_x\text{H}$ ; wherein (y) represents a number such that the molecular weight of the hydrophobic POP portion ( $\text{C}_3\text{H}_6\text{O}$ ) is up to approximately 20,000 daltons and wherein (x) represents a number such that the percentage of the hydrophilic POE portion ( $\text{C}_2\text{H}_4\text{O}$ ) is between approximately 1% and 50% by weight.